AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Claims 1-79 (Cancelled).

80. (Previously added): An energy transfer dye comprising:

a xanthene donor dye capable of absorbing light at a first wavelength and emitting excitation energy in response thereto;

a 4,7-dichlororhodamine acceptor dye capable of absorbing the excitation energy emitted by the donor dye and fluorescing at a second wavelength in response thereto; and

a non-nucleosidic linker linking the 5- or 6-ring position of the donor dye to the 5- or 6-ring position of the acceptor dye.

81. (Previously added): The energy transfer dye of Claim 80 in which the donor dye is a fluorescein dye.

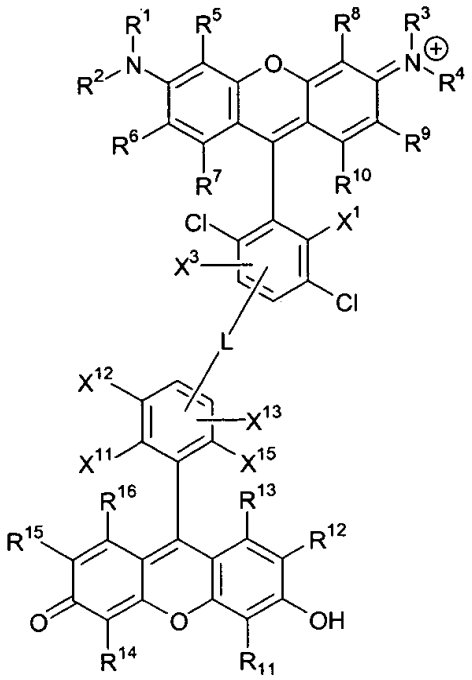
82. (Previously added): The energy transfer dye of Claim 80 in which the linker has a backbone that is less than 9 atoms in length.

83. (Previously added): The energy transfer dye of Claim 80 in which the linker comprises a functional group selected from an alkene, a diene, an alkyne, a five membered ring having at least one unsaturated bond, a six membered ring having at least one unsaturated bond and a fused ring structure.

84. (Previously added): The energy transfer dye of Claim 80 which further comprises a linking group suitable for attaching the energy transfer dye to another substance.

85. (Previously added): The energy transfer dye of Claim 84 in which the linking group is attached to the 4'-position of the 4,7-dichlororhodamine acceptor dye.

86. (Previously added): The energy transfer dye of Claim 80 which comprises the structure:



wherein:

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are each, independently of one another, selected from hydrogen and alkyl, or alternatively R^1 and R^5, R^2 and R^6, R^3 and R^8 and/or R^4 and R^9 may be taken together with the atoms to which they are bonded to form a 5, 6 or 7-membered ring;

R^5, R^6, R^7, R^9 and R^{10} are each, independently of one another, selected from hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, carboxyl, alkyl, alkene, alkyne, sulfonate, sulfone, amino, ammonium, amido, nitrile, alkoxy, phenyl and substituted phenyl, or alternatively, R^6 and R^7 and/or R^9 and R^{10} may be taken together with the atoms to which they are bonded to form a benzo group;

R^8 is selected from hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, carboxyl, alkyl, alkene, alkyne, sulfonate, sulfone, amino, ammonium, amido, nitrile, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl and linking group;

X^1 and X^3 are each, independently of one another, selected from hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, carboxyl, alkyl, alkene, alkyne, sulfonate, sulfone, amino, ammonium, amido, nitrile and alkoxy;

L is the linker linking the donor and acceptor dyes;

R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{15} and R^{16} are each, independently of one another, selected from hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, carboxyl, alkyl, alkene, alkyne, sulfonate,

sulfone, amino, ammonium, amido, nitrile, alkoxy, phenyl and substituted phenyl, or alternatively, R^{12} and R^{13} and/or R^{15} and R^{16} may be taken together with the atoms to which they are bonded to form a benzo group;

R^{14} is selected from hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, carboxyl, alkyl, alkene, alkyne, sulfonate, sulfone, amino, ammonium, amido, nitrile, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl and linking group; and

X^{11}, X^{12}, X^{13} and X^{15} are each, independently of one another, selected from hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, carboxyl, alkyl, alkene, alkyne, sulfonate, sulfone, amino, ammonium, amido, nitrile and alkoxy.

Claims 87-151 (Cancelled).